

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                   1.       An expandable tubular stent comprising:  
2                   an expandable tubular body having a first end, a second end, a plurality of  
3 interconnected cylindrical wall sections including a first cylindrical wall section at the  
4 first end of the tubular body, a second cylindrical wall section at the second end of the  
5 tubular body, and at least one intermediate cylindrical wall section between the first and  
6 second cylindrical wall sections, and  
7                   a plurality of S-shaped connectors which extend between and are secured  
8 to a cylindrical wall section and a longitudinally adjacent cylindrical wall section and  
9 configured to provide both expansion and contraction between adjacent cylindrical wall  
10 sections.

1                   2.       The expandable tubular stent of claim 1, wherein the S-shaped  
2 connectors comprise a double curvature shape.

1                   3.       The expandable tubular stent of claim 1, wherein the connecting  
2 members are secured to proximate points of adjacent cylindrical wall sections.

1                   4.       The expandable tubular stent of claim 2, wherein the connecting  
2 members are secured to proximate points of adjacent cylindrical wall sections.

1                   5.       The expandable tubular stent of any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the  
2 S-shaped connectors, connect at least some of the longitudinally adjacent cylindrical wall  
3 sections extending along an intermediate section of the stent which is disposed between  
4 ends of the stent.

1                   6.       An expandable tubular stent comprising:  
2                   an expandable tubular body having a first end, a second end, a plurality of  
3 interconnected cylindrical wall sections including a first cylindrical wall section at the  
4 first end of the tubular body, a second cylindrical wall section at the second end of the  
5 tubular body, and at least one intermediate cylindrical wall section between the first and  
6 second cylindrical wall sections, having an unexpanded and expanded configuration; and  
7                   a plurality of S-shaped connectors which extend between and are secured  
8 to a cylindrical wall section and a longitudinally adjacent cylindrical wall section and  
9 configured to provide a flexibility in both the expanded and unexpanded configurations.

1                   7.       An expandable tubular stent comprising:  
2                   an expandable tubular body having a first end, a second end, a plurality of  
3 interconnected cylindrical wall segments including a first cylindrical wall segment at the  
4 first end of the tubular body, a second cylindrical wall segment at the second end of the  
5 tubular body, and at least one intermediate cylindrical wall segment between the first and  
6 second cylindrical wall segments, and at least one extendable connector which has a first  
7 end secured to a cylindrical wall segment at a first location and a second end secured to a  
8 longitudinally adjacent cylindrical wall segment at a second location circumferentially off  
9 set from the first location.

1                   8.       The expandable tubular stent of claim 7, wherein the at least one  
2 extendable connector has an S-shape.

1                   9.       The expandable tubular stent of claim 7, wherein the at least one  
2 extendable connector has a double curvature.

1                   10.      The expandable tubular stent of claim 7, wherein the at least one  
2 extendable connector is configured to provide both expansion and contraction between  
3 adjacent cylindrical wall segments.

1                   11.      The expandable tubular stent of claim 7, wherein a plurality of  
2 cylindrical wall segments have at least one extendable connector which has a first end  
3 secured to a cylindrical wall segment at a first location and a second end secured to a  
4 longitudinally adjacent cylindrical wall segment at a second location circumferentially off  
5 set from the first location.